

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 12-14 [?shouldn't this read 1-18 since all the claims are discussed under this heading?] under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flakne et al in view of Reid et al. Since Reid et al is not cited in this case, Applicants are unable to properly respond to the portion of the rejection citing this reference. However, in response to Applicants' prior arguments regarding the Flakne et al reference the Examiner states that it teaches generation of mask pixel data by a controller to define a mask, i.e., the tag bits allow the channels to be prioritized or layered so that only the intensity of the one on top is displayed when two or more channels overlap (col. 6, lls. 36-42); and it teaches a multiplexer having M output channels that are coupled to M input channels of a test and measurement instrument (col. 6, lls 29-36). Applicants continue to respectfully traverse these erroneous conclusions by the Examiner.

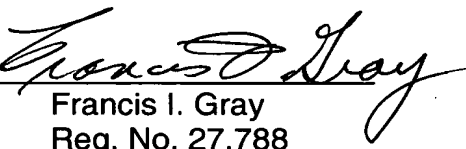
A "mask defines a pathway having minimum and maximum amplitude values, predetermined bit rate, and defined minimum slope on signal edges." (Page 1, lines 31-32 -- Fig. 4, elements 410, 420). Prioritizing or layering as discussed in Flakne et al has absolutely nothing to do with "defining a pathway", and therefore the Examiner's conclusion that the tag bits of Flakne et al teach mask generation is clearly erroneous. Also Applicants' invention provides an N:M multiplexer ($N > M$) where the M outputs are coupled to separate M input channels of a multi-channel oscilloscope, whereas Flakne et al teach multiplexing internal to the oscilloscope more than one channel into one acquisition memory (4:1 multiplexer, for example). Also multiple channels may be demultiplexed out of fewer acquisition memory and rasterization sections (2:4 or 1:4 demultiplexer, for example) to be displayed as separate channels. This has nothing to do with selecting inputs from N-input channels in groups of M-channels for input to M-input channels of a test and measurement instrument. Therefore Applicants again submit that the Examiner's conclusion about what Flakne et al teach is erroneous. Thus claims 1-18 are deemed to be allowable over Flakne et al in view of Reid et al [??] since Flakne et al neither teach generating mask pixel data or displaying simultaneously such data

together with the acquired waveform as recited in claims 1, 8 or 15 nor the N:M multiplexer as recited in claim 8.

In view of the foregoing remarks allowance of claims 1-18 is urged, and such action and the issuance of this case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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